REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6, 11-13, 19-21, 23, 30, and 36 have been canceled herein. Such cancellation is without prejudice on the merits to further prosecution of these claims in one or more continuing applications.

Claims 1, 5, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 31, 33, 37, 40, and 42 have been amended herein. Verbatim support for the phrase "rat-derived placental RNase inhibitor or human-derived placental RNase inhibitor" can be found in the specification at page 19, last paragraph. Support for the phrase "derived from rats, human placentas, or recombinant human placental sources," can be found in Claim 5 as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 14-18, 22, 24-35, 37-40, and 42-44 remain in the application.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under §112, First Paragraph (Written Description and Enablement):

Because these two remaining rejections are very closely related, they shall be addressed simultaneously.

These rejections are believed to have been overcome, in major part, by appropriate amendment to the claims. Specifically, in the Advisory Action, the Office noted that the claims are enabled and include descriptive support for "rat or human RNasin." Thus, the claims have been amended throughout to note that the RNase inhibitor protein is "derived from rats, human placentas, or recombinant human placental sources." Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment overcomes, in major part, the rejections under §112, first paragraph, written description and enablement.

In a brief telephone conversation held on September 4, 2007, Applicants' undersigned counsel and the examiner, Dr. Hutson, discussed the scope of what was meant by "rat or human RNasin." Counsel had interpreted this phrase to denote proteinaceous RNase inhibitors derived from rats or humans. Dr. Hutson, in contrast, indicated he had in mind Promega's specific "RNasin"-brand RNase protein inhibitor (which is mentioned by name in the paragraph spanning pages 11 and 12 of the

application as filed). No definitive agreement was reached on the scope of this term during the phone call, so counsel indicated that this present RCE would be filed, in lieu of an appeal on the merits.

To the extent the Office may object to the present wording of the claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in part. As noted in the application as filed, and in previous arguments submitted by the Applicants, rat-derived RNase inhibitor proteins and human-derived inhibitor proteins are articles of commerce. Native human placental RNase inhibitor protein and recombinant human placental RNase inhibitor protein are both available commercially. They are well-known, commercial compounds that have been described extensively in both the patent literature and the scientific literature. See the discussion in the application as filed starting at page 11, last paragraph, and extending to page 12, first full paragraph. Because the claims now positively require that the RNase inhibitor protein is "derived from rats, human placentas, or recombinant human placental sources," Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under §112, first paragraph (written description and enablement) are untenable.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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